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—OF THE—

Provincial Council of Pennsylvania.

Paper Read Before
THE LEBANON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Feb. 16, 1900.

BY
HENRY C. GRITTINGER,
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Annville, Pa.
JOURNAL PRINT,
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ABSTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Some time ago in perusing the Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania, the writer was struck by the number of peculiar happenings recorded therein, that he jotted down a number that seemed most odd and interesting, and some rather too frivolous to have occupied the time of the Supreme Authority of the Province at the time they were recorded. However as they are recorded, they are a matter of history, and while the abstracts are of a disconnected and rambling nature, they will give an insight into some of the peculiar ideas, beliefs and customs in vogue two hundred years ago.

The selections relate principally to the doings of the inhabitants of the early settlements on the west bank of the Delaware River and country adjacent, yet they are closely connected with the early history of our own locality, although but few familiar home names occur in the first two volumes of the minutes referred to,—which will be the limit of our abstracts.

As the settlements on the Delaware had already become somewhat cosmopolitan at the time of William Penn's arrival in 1682, embracing Dutch, Swedes, English and Welsh Settlers, perhaps a little general history, starting with the founding of the Colony, will give a better insight into affairs as they existed on Penn's arrival,—for which information I have drawn principally on the Historical Collections of Sherman Day, and on the History of New Sweden, by Acrelius.

Several Colonies had been started by Europeans on the North American Coast, notably at New Amsterdam, now New York, by the Dutch, and at Jamestown, Virginia, by the English, before any permanent Settlement was made on the Delaware River.

Delaware Bay was first discovered by Lord De-la-ware, Governor of the Virginia Colony, on his passage from England to Virginia, in 1616, and as a compliment to him, was named Delaware Bay. The Delaware River was not explored by Europeans until 1616, when Capt. Cornelius

Hendrickson under the auspices of the United Company of Merchants, formed in Holland, in sailing along the North American coast, is reported to have gone up the river as far as the mouth of the Schuylkill.

No European Settlement was however made on the Delaware, until 1623. The Dutch then called the river, South River, in contra-distinction to the Hudson or North river, in New Netherland now New York. It had quite a number of names applied to it at various times: originally the Indians called it Mack-er-isk-iskan and Lenape-Wihittuck; the Dutch called it Zuydt or South River; the Swedes the Swenska Revier or Swedes River; and the English by its present name.

In 1623 a number of adventurers left New Amsterdam, in the ship "New Netherland" under command of Capt. Cornelius Jacobus May or Mey, to further explore and colonize the South River. Capt. May on a previous voyage of discovery, had sighted the Capes at the mouth of the Bay, and named the Northern one "Cape May" after himself, and the Southern one "Cape Hindlopen," after a town in Friesland.

The exploring party sailed up the river, and erected a small fort near where Gloucester, N. J., now stands, and called it "Fort Nassau." This, however, was not a permanent settlement, it being used only as an occasional trading post by the Dutch.

The next settlement was made by a party of Dutch Colonists under Capt. De Vries in 1631. They erected "Fort Oplandt" near the mouth of the Hoorn-Kill or Lewes Creek, now in the State of Delaware, and built around it a little settlement called "Swanendael or Valley of Swans." De Vries then went back to Holland, leaving his colony in charge of Giles Osset, and on his return the following year, found the fort and settlement in ruins, and the fields strewn with the bones of his countrymen. The account states that Osset had set upon a post at the fort, a piece of glittering tin with the Coat of Arms of Holland emblazoned thereon, that aroused the cupidity of an Indian, who not knowing its objects, stole it to make a tobacco box of it. Osset on discovering the loss, was greatly offended, claiming the removal of the Coat of Arms to be a National insult. He notified the Chiefs of the theft and so strongly urged his demands for redress, that the Indians brought him the head of the offender.

This led to further complications, which resulted in the massacre of the entire Colony:—the cause of which, De Vries only learned after a

renewal of peace with the Indians. De Vries then passed up the river to Fort Nassau, which he found also desolate,—and left the bay in discouragement.

“The voyage of De Vries,” says Bancroft, “was the cradling of a state. That Delaware exists as a separate commonwealth is due to the Colony of De Vries. According to English rule, occupancy was necessary to complete a title to the wilderness. The Dutch now occupied Delaware, and Harvey, the governor of Virginia, in a grant of commercial privileges to Claiborne, recognized the adjoining plantations of the Dutch.”

The Swedes, in the mean time having learned of the successful enterprise of the Dutch, determined also on founding a colony, and sent out an expedition under command of Peter Minuit, who was formerly governor of New Amsterdam.

This expedition, consisting of two vessels, with Swedish colonists, provisions, ammunition and merchandise for traffic, arrived in the Delaware, from Gothenburg, in the year 1638. They first landed near Cape Henlopen and were so charmed with the spot, that they named it Paradise Point.

They conciliated the natives, and purchased from them the land on the west side of the bay, from Cape Henlopen to Sanhickan, or the Falls at Trenton, and thence westward to the Great Fall in the Susquehanna river, near the mouth of the Conewago creek. Acrelius states “A deed was drawn up for the land thus purchased. This was written in Dutch, because no Swede was yet able to interpret the language of the heathen. The Indians subscribed their hands and marks. The writing was sent home to Sweden to be preserved in the royal archives. Mans Kling was the surveyor. He laid out the land and made a map of the whole river, with its tributaries, islands and points, which is still to be found in the royal archives in Sweden. Their clergyman was Reorus Torkillus of East Gothland.”

“The first abode of the newly arrived emigrants was at a place called by the Indians Hopokahacking. There, in the year 1638, Peter Minuit built a fortress, which he named Fort Christina, after the reigning queen of Sweden. The place, situated on the west side of the river, was probably chosen so as to be out of the way of the Hollanders, who

claimed the eastern side—a measure of prudence,—until the arrival of a greater force from Sweden.

The fort was built upon an eligible site, not far from the mouth of a creek, so as to secure them in the navigable water of the Maniques, which was afterwards called Christina Kihl, or creek."

The second emigration of Swedes took place under Lieutenant Colonel John Printz, who had been appointed Governor of New Sweden. They arrived in 1643 in the ships Fama, Swan and Charitas. Acrelius states "The Company was invested with the exclusive privilege of importing tobacco into Sweden, although that article was even then regarded as unnecessary and injurious, although indispensable since the establishment of the bad habit of its use."

Swedish colonists continued to arrive from time to time, and the settlement soon spread by their accession, up to, and above the mouth of the Schuylkill River.

The Dutch also began colonizing, and to maintain their hold on the land lying on the Delaware,—which they claimed by right of discovery,—they built a fort on the south side of Minquas or Maniquas creek, near its mouth, now the site of Newcastle, Delaware. The building of this fort caused great dissatisfaction among the Swedes, who in 1654 captured it from the Dutch, strengthened it, and called it "Trinity Fort." This aroused the anger of Gov. Peter Stuyvesant, Governor of New Amsterdam, who in the next year, 1655, came up the Delaware with seven ships and six or seven hundred men, and captured all the Swedish forts and assumed jurisdiction over the colony.

The Dutch and Swedes continued to occupy the territory together, for nine years,—the Dutch being the rulers, and the Swedes giving character and prosperity to the colony.

In 1664, the English having conquered the whole country of New Netherlands, Sir Robert Carr sailed up the Delaware and took possession of the fort at Newcastle, together with the other settlements of the Dutch and Swedes on the Delaware. During the English control, many English, principally Quakers, emigrated and settled in this newly acquired territory. The English retained possession, until 1672, when the Dutch being at war with them, again obtained control and maintained it for two years, when a return of peace restored the country to

the English, who remained in control until forced out by the result of the Revolutionary War.

The Colony continued growing, mainly by the accession of the English immigrants.

On March 4th, 1681, William Penn, son of Sir William Penn, who had been a distinguished Admiral in the English Navy, having inherited claims to a large amount against the Crown, for services rendered by his father, received in payment of said claims, a grant of a charter or Letters Patent from Charles II, King of England, making him absolute Proprietary of a large tract of land in the New World, called in the charter "Pennsylvania."

On the 30th day of August, 1682, Penn with a number of colonists sailed for Pennsylvania on the ship "Welcome," arriving at Newcastle on the 27th day of October.

During the year 1682, no less than twenty-three vessels arrived in the Delaware from Europe, bringing more than 2000 immigrants. They were principally Friends or Quakers, from England, but with them, and following later on, came settlers from Wales, Ireland and continental Europe.

Shortly after his arrival, Penn held the memorable interview with the native Indian Chiefs under the great elm at Shackamaxon, now Kensington, where he proclaimed his desire for peace with them, which resulted in the signing of what has been called "The Great Treaty."

Late in 1682, assisted by Thomas Holme, surveyor, William Penn laid out the town of Philadelphia, on land purchased from the Swedes, and divided the Province into three Counties, called Bucks, Chester and Philadelphia, and the Territories into three, viz: New Castle, Kent and Sussex.

Acrelius, in his History of New Sweden, published at Stockholm in 1758 after having spent several years in the Colonies, in referring to the laying out of Philadelphia, says, "On the river at Wicacoa, a high, dry, and pleasant place, the city of Philadelphia was laid out. The land for it, consisting of three hundred and sixty acres, was given by three brothers of the Swaenson family, upon condition that two hundred acres should be given to each of them in another place in the city, in what are now called the "Northern Liberties" of the city, with a yearly rent of one half bushel of wheat for each one hundred acres. Those who

bought land in the country had building-lots given to them in the city. Its first charter was given in 1682, and its so called "Liberties" extended three English miles beyond the city, between two navigable streams, the Delaware and the Schuylkill. Within the first year the city contained eighty houses, and after twenty years was amazed at its own strength and greatness. Its beautiful situation, deep harbors, regular streets, expensive buildings, important commerce, and rapid improvement, are a wonder to the world, and may become hereafter even greater."

In June, 1683, peace negotiations with the Indians, were renewed, and resulted in two separate conveyances to Penn by the Indians.

Dr. Egle, in his History of Pennsylvania, says "The first dated June 23rd, 1683, Between William Penn and Kings Tamnenen and Metamequan conveys the land near Neshamanah (Neshaminy) creek, and thence to Pennapacka, (Pennypack).

The second dated July 14th, 1683, is for lands lying between the Schuylkill and Chester Rivers."

The first General Assembly under the Penn charter, met at Chester, December 4th 1682. It was composed of a Council of eighteen members,—three from each of the six counties; and an Assembly, composed of thirty-six members,—six from each county. It continued to meet at Chester, until the 10th day of the first month, 1683, when it for the first time convened at Philadelphia, William Penn, Proprietor and Governor, presiding.

A record of the proceedings at this meeting, is the first entered in the "Journal of the Councell of the Province of Pennsylvania, and Territories thereunto belonging," which is referred to, in the beginning of this paper, and from which, and succeeding minutes, the following abstracts have been taken.

In a foot note to the first record of minutes, is stated the following. "By the 41st Chapter of the Acts of the first General Assembly of Pennsylvania, passed Dec. 7th, 1682, it will appear that the first settlers of this state began the year on the first of March. The following is an accurate copy of the chapter referred to."

"And bee it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that ye days of ye week and ye months of ye year, shall be called as in Scripture and not by Heathen names, (as are vulgarly used) as ye first, second and third

daies of ye week, and first, second and third months of ye year, beginning with ye day called Sunday and ye month called March."

The Secretary of the Council, however, did not adhere closely to the text of the Act referred to, as the minutes frequently refer also to the days of the week, as Die Sabbathi, Die Lunae, Die Martis, Die Mercurii, Die Jovis, Die Veneris, and Die Saturni,—most of which could hardly be called Scriptural names.

At the second meeting of the Council held "12th of ye 1st Mo. 1682," a certain Nickolas Moore, President of the Society of Free Traders, was arraigned for uttering treasonable words in company in a public house, against the Governor and General Assembly. In defence he said "that he spoke rather by query than by assertion, and if he had said as it was represented, he had been to blame indeed, but he spake not with such an Intent." He was released and "exhorted to prevent the like for the future."

The selling value of servants (possibly redemptioners) is shown in the proceedings of Council held "ye 20th of 1st Mo. 1683," where "The Peticion of Nathaniel Allen was read, shewing that he had sould a servt to Henry Bowman, for six hundred weight of beefe, wth. ye hide & tallow & six pounds sterl. which ye said Bowman delayed to pay ye said Peticioner."

At the Meeting of Council held "ye 23d of ye 1st Mo. 1683," it was ordered that the Seal "of Philadelphia should be the Anchor, of the County of Bucks a Tree and Vine, of the County of Chester a Plow, of the County of New Castle a Castle, of the County of Kent three ears of Indian Corn, of the County of Sussex one Wheat Sheaf."

The first trial for counterfeiting or "Quining" Money was held 26th 8th Mo. 1683, at which Charles Pickering was found guilty and ordered to redeem within month, "any of this false, base and counterfeit Coyne," "and that the money brought in shall be melted into gross before returned to thee and that thou shalt pay a fine of fourty pounds into this Court, towards ye building of a Court house in this Towne, and stand committed till payed, and afterwards fined security for thy good abearance."

Samuel Buckley another counterfeiter received a lighter sentence, viz,—"the Court considering thee to have been more Engenious than he that went before thee, doe fine thee ten pounds toward a Public

Court house here, and to finde good security for thy good abearance."

The third counterfeiter, Robert Fenton, having turned state's evidence, was sentenced to "sit an hour in the stocks to-morrow morning."

At a Council held "ye 26th of ye 10th month 1683, the Gov. and Prov. Council having taken into serious consideration the great necessity there is of a Scool Master for ye Instruction & Sober Education of Youth in the towne of Philadelphia, sent for Enock flower, an Inhabitant of said Towne, who for twenty years past hath been Exercised in that care and Imploymont in England, to whom having Communicated their Mind, he Embraced it on the following terms, to Learne to read English 4's by ye Quarter, to Learne to read and write 6's by ye Quarter, to Learne to read, write and Cast Acco's 8's by ye Quarter; for Boarding a Scholler, that is to say, dyet, washing, Lodging & Scooling, Tenn pounds for one whole year."

From the phraseology and orthography of the above as it appears in cold type, it is quite evident a "Scool Master" was needed.

At the meeting of Council held "16th of ye 11th month, 1683, a man named Anto. Weston and other persons, having made certain Proposals in writing that were not approved of by the Authorities, it was decided that the "The Govr. and Provl. Council have thought fit that for the great presumption and contempt of this Government and authority, that Anto. Weston be Whypt at ye Market Place on Market daye three times, Each time to have Tenn Lashes, at 12 of the clock at noone, this being the first day."

The minutes do not state the nature of the offense committed, nor why Weston alone was punished.

In the Minutes of a number of the meetings of the Council, it is noted that many indentured servants were compelled to enter into a recognizance of fifty pounds each, for their good behavior during the time of their servitude.

The Council evidently took a paternal interest in the affairs of the inhabitants of the Province as is shown by their action at a meeting held ye 7th 12th mo. 1693, when the following were proposed :

"A Law proposed to encourage the making of Linen Cloth,"

"A Law proposed for two sorts of Cloathes only, for Winter and Summer Wear,"

"A Law proposed for Young Men's Marrieing at such an age,"

"A Law proposed for the making of severall sorts of Books for the use of Persons in this Province,"

"Proposed that care be Taken about the Learning and Instruction of Youth, to Witt: A School of Arts and Sciences."

On the 27th of the 12th Month, 1693, is the first record of a trial by Jury. The Jury empanelled consisted of twelve men, and William Penn presided as Judge. The defendants in the case were a woman named Margarit Matson, and a man named Getro Hendrickson, who were both indicted for practicing witchcraft. The woman was first arraigned, and plead "not guilty and will be tryed by the Countrey." A number of witnesses testified to a great deal of hearsay evidence as to the woman bewitching cows, cattle and geese, which she and several other witnesses, denied. The Jury however found her "guilty in manner and forme as Shee stands Indicted." She afterward gave bond for one hundred pounds for her good behavior for six months. The case against Hendrickson was not pressed, but he also gave bond for future good behavior.

At this time evidently, the Exchequer of the Government was ebbing, as a number of laws were passed to increase the revenue. The custom duties proposed to be levied on liquors, were increased so as to realize about 1000 pounds per annum. A law was also passed to prosecute persons that put water in rum, &c.

On the 2nd of ye 2nd month, 1684, there was introduced "A Bill Concerning Lands, Corne, Beef, Pork, Tobacco, Hides, &c. to give for Current pay, past Nemine Contradicente."

It was also ordered that "halfe of an Intestate's Estate shall goe to ye Wife."

At this time there was considerable friction between parties holding lands in the lower Counties, owing to the conflicting claims of Lord Baltimore to some of the land sold by Penn. This controversy was kept up for a long while, notwithstanding, the fact that Penn had paid several personal visits to Lord Baltimore to bring their dispute to a close, but was unable to do so.

He finally decided on appealing to the King and sailed for England in July 1684, leaving his authority vested in the Council, and appointed Thos. Lloyd president.

In some of the trivial differences between citizens that were brought before the Governor and Council, the litigants were frequently advised to shake hands and forgive one another and give bond to keep the peace.

At the Council held 14th 8th mo. 1685, Thos. Lloyd presiding, "a French ship called the Harp of London, being an unfree ship," (presumably without proper clearance papers) "was condemned and forfeited according to law, and after being appraised with tackle, apparel and Ammunition, &c. it was ordered to be sold 'by Inch of Candle' on the afternoon of the 14th of 8th month, 1684, between the hours of three and five."

This method of selling was formerly much in vogue, but is now obsolete. When the sale was begun, a piece of Candle an inch in length was lighted, and the highest bidder, at the time the candle was burned down and the lighted wick fell, became purchaser.

At the meeting of Council held the 11th 3rd month, 1685, the death of King Charles the Second was announced, and James, Duke of Albany and York, was proclaimed "James the Second of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King" and at the meeting held on the following day the Council announced their allegiance to the new King.

In Dec. 1688, Capt. John Blackwell arrived from England with a commission from Wm. Penn, appointing him Governor of the Province and the annexed Counties. He assumed control on the 18th of December.

On the first settlement of Philadelphia, owing to the poverty of many of the Colonists and their consequent inability to erect dwelling houses, numbers of them lived in caves dug in the bank of the Delaware river, and at a meeting of Council held 13th 2nd month, 1687, it was ordered by the Governor "that notice be given to all persons Concerned in ye caves or houses built upon ye bank of their towne, on Delaware side, unless those Leased by the Govr. and not yet Expired, do by 20th of ye next month, provide for themselves other habitations, in order to have said Caves or houses Destroyed, or otherwise Disposed off, as the Govr. shall see meet."

On 17th 6th month 1687, a "Petition of about three score people, Inhabitants of Chester County, was Read, setting forth the great want of a Mill in their parts, and Requesting a Permission for Thomas Coebourne to goe forward with ye building and setting up of his Mill on

Chester Creek." The Record further states that "The Councill is willing to give Incouragement to ye Proceedure of Thomas Coebourne in the finishing of his Mill that he is now about, for ye urgent necessity of ye Countrey, Reserving to ye Govr. his Proprietary Shipp."

On the 7th of 2nd month 1688, was presented "The Petition of ye Inhabitants of at ye Center of Philadelphia, requesting ye fayr to be kept there. Answered the next fayr will be granted to be kept at ye Center."

This decision evidently aroused the ire of a faction opposed to this locality, as at a meeting held 15th 3rd month 1688, "A summons was sent Directed to Thomas Clyfford Messenger, for the Summonsing ye Subscribers of a Contemptuous Printing paper touching ye keeping of ye fair at ye Center, where it was ordered by ye Govr. and Council to be kept." The return on the warrant was made next day, and after a hearing the accused were all reproved and pardoned.

At some of the subsequent meetings of the Council, Samuel Richardson, one of its members, was much in evidence, as opposed to, and not recognizing John Blackwell as Governor, and was expelled from the Council at a meeting held 3rd day 2nd month, 1689. The Minutes of the meeting state that "Many intemperate Speeches and passages happened, fit to be had in oblivion," which would indicate that the Quakers were not above some of the disgraceful scenes enacted in our modern Legislative Halls. At the same meeting, Thos. Lloyd, who had been president of Council until the arrival of Gov. Blackwell, was also excluded for refusal to comply with certain requests. Both of the parties expelled refused to submit, and persisted in attending subsequent meetings, and like Banquo's ghost, "would not down."

King James of England having been reported to have been defeated in battle, and afterwards captured and dethroned by William Prince of Orange, the question of declaring the latter, King, was discussed at a meeting of Council held 1st day 9th month, 1689, and opposed by a number of members as being premature, as no Proclamation of William, as King, had been received. However, at a meeting held next day a resolution was unanimously passed "That William and Mary, Prince and Princess of Orange be and be declared King and Queen of England, France and Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging."

The objection of certain members of Council to John Blackwell officiating as Governor was kept up until the 1st of the 11th month 1689, when written authority was received from William Penn, deposing Blackwell and directing the Council to elect his Deputy or Lieutenant Governor, from among their own number, thus removing the cause of the discord had in the past. Thos. Lloyd was chosen Deputy and presided over the affairs of the Province until Benjamin Fletcher was appointed Governor in 1693. At a meeting of Council held ye 9th day of ye 2nd Mo. 1690. It was "ordered that a Warrt. be made to Improve Each County by Their Respective Magistrates and Grand Jury, to Divide their respective counties into hundreds, or such other division as they shall think most convenient for their Ease in Collecting ye Levies for defraying ye Charge of ye Counties." The subdivision of Counties into Hundreds was practised in central and southern England at that time, and was introduced into the Colonies of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

The District called "a Hundred" was supposed to contain a hundred families at the time of its formation. The township as a subdivision was substituted later on, and the term Hundred is now used in only a few localities in Delaware and Virginia.

On the 21st of November, 1690, a Proclamation, written in Latin, was issued by William and Mary, King and Queen of England, Scotland, France and Ireland. Among other things it announced the appointment of Benjamin Fletcher as Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Provinces of New York and the Province of Pennsylvania, etc.

Benjamin Fletcher assumed charge as Captain General and Governor-in-Chief by Proclamation of 17th of May, 1693, and appointed Wm. Markham, a cousin of Penn's, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania and the Counties of New Castle, Kent, etc., thus taking control of the Province from Wm. Penn.

In Dec. 1693, news was received of the intention of the French and Indians to raid the English settlements in Pennsylvania, and at a meeting of Council held May 16, 1693, the Governor, Benjamin Fletcher, being present, addressed the Council and urged a contribution of men and money for defenses of settlements here and in New York.

The meeting of Council was held May 26, 1693, at the house of Lieutenant Governor Markham, who was "indisposed to come abroad by the gout." At all the recent meetings the members of both the Council and Assembly being principally Quakers, and much opposed to furnishing men and money to fight the French and Indians, took the position that they were men of peace, and having persisted in refusing to comply with the request of the Governor, the Sessions of the Council and Assembly were dissolved on 1st of June, 1693.

On the 26th day of March, 1695, a meeting of Council was held at which were read Letters Patent from William and Mary, King and Queen of England, &c., restoring William Penn to the proprietorship of Pennsylvania, and Country of New Castle, &c. The Commission of William Markham appointed Governor under Penn, was also read. The furnishing of money and men to fight the French and Indians in New York was again the bone of contention in the General Assembly which had re-convened, January 2, 1694, and for want of action in the matter, was again dissolved, Sept. 27th, 1695. It again re-convened Sept. 25th, 1696.

Although many of Penn's colonists had belonged to the Free Traders' Society of Pennsylvania, evidently Wm. Penn was a Protectionist and believed in fostering home industries, as is shown in a letter sent by him to Governor Markham to be read in Council. The letter was dated London, 5th 7th mo. 1697, and was in part as follows:

"Friends, The Accusations of one sort and the reports of another that are come for England ag' yor government, not only tend to our ruin, but disgrace. That you wink at a Scotch trade and a Dutch one too, receiving European goods from the latter, as well as suffering yours ag't the Law and English interest, to goe to the other; Also, that you do not onlie wink att, but imbrace pirats, shipps and then." He then passes on to recount some reports received by him as to the morals of Philadelphia, and says, "that there is no place more overrun with wickedness, sins so very scandalous, openly committed in defiance of Law and Virtue; facts so foul, I am forbid by Comon Modesty to relate you." All of which accusations were denied by an investigating committee to whom the matter was referred. The Governor, however, was requested to issue a proclamation calling on the people to observe the laws and discourage vice, etc., which was approved at a meeting of Council held "die Sabbatti 12th Febry. 1697."

On the same day a petition signed by Saml. Carpenter, Edward Shippen and others of the people called Quakers was presented to Council stating "That it hath been and is much desired by Many That a School be set up and upheld in this towne of Philadelphia, where poor children may be freely maintained, taught and educated in good literature, until they are fit to be put out apprentices, or Capable to be masters or ushers in said School," which petition was granted by the Governor and the Council, and the school put under the control of "The overseers of the publick Schoole founded in Philadelphia, at ye request, costs and charges of the people of God, called the Quakers."

The proceedings of Council for some months after this were much occupied with reports of piracy, smuggling and other crimes. The selling of children for the payment of passage from England was reported at the meeting held August 9, 1699, by a man named Samuel Hadden, who said he had been persuaded to join a party coming to Pennsylvania, under certain conditions which he complied with, and when on board the vessel with his goods, the Captain told him he would have to pay 5 £ additional for himself and as much more for each of his children, which he was unable to do, and "having but three pence left, was forced to sell his children, one for nine, and the other for tenn years, or else stay in England, when his whole substance was carried elsewhere." The Council ordered the return of the children to the father, who gave the Captain, named Samuel Cart, security for the payment of the passage money due.

William Penn returned to Philadelphia on the 1st day of December, 1699 and again assumed control of affairs, first presiding at a meeting of Council held "die Jovis 21st 10th Mo. December, 1699."

During the winter of 1699-1700, the redoubtable Capt. Kidd, the Pirate and Smuggler, appeared at several places down Delaware Bay, and at a Council held "die Veneris 12th April 1700," William Penn "acquainted ye Council yt hee had intelligence yt Wm. Orr, George Thompson, Peter Lewis, Henry Stretcher and Diggerie Tenney, inhabitants of ye town of Lewis in Sussex Countie, had gone on board Capt. Kidd, ye privateer (who in Julie last Lay some days before Cape Henlopen) and had corresponded wt him, and received from him and his crew some Muslains, Calicoes, Monies and other goods wch wer East India, and prohibited goods and yt they had brought ym on shore, hid, sold

and given away most of ym, wtout acquainting ye government or ye King's Collr. of ye port of Lewis wt ye same, wch hee look't upon to be, if not piracie, att Least Confederating wt ym, and accessaries & promoters of illegal trade." All of which the Collector of the Port of Lewis was called upon to explain.

At a Council held "die Lunae 1st July 1700" "It was unanimouslie agreed and assented to by ye Govr. and Councii that * * * * * be appointed and is hereby authorized and impowered to go round ye town with a small Bell in the night time, to give notice of ye time of ye night and the weather, and if anie disorders, or danger happen by fire or otherwise, in the night time, to acquaint ye Constables yrof."

The bakers at this time evidently knew of the increased profits of light weight bread, as a number of them were arraigned before the Governor and Council at the meeting held "die Mercurii, 3rd July, 1700." "In excuse, they affirmed yt if they came up to ye assize, they could not Live by itt, wch was ye general opinion of the Council. And yrfor it was ordered by ye Gov. and Council yt each baker should bake but 3 sorts of bread, viz: white, wheaten, and household, and no more; and yt the Loaves should be a pennie Loaf or roll, a 5d Loaf and a 10d Loaf and no other; and if anie of these sholud exceed the assize finnes or weight, it would be equallie seizable as if it wer under the finnes or weight, and yt each Baker of soft bread be allowed 6d on ye bushell above ye assize, i. e. when wheat is att 5s p. bush. they shall make ye bread as if it wer at 5s 6d and wheat being now 5s p. bush. ye sd white bread shall weigh six oz; the wheaten 10 oz. and ye household 13 oz. and $\frac{1}{4}$, and so proporationable." It is hardly likely that these restrictions as to profits, would be popular with the baking fraternity of the present day.

At the same meeting the Rules and Regulations that were made for the market, were amended so "That no Huckster (or psons yt sell again) shall buy or cheapen anie of the aforemenioned provisions until ye second ringing of ye Bell upon forfeiture of same and 6d; $\frac{1}{2}$ to ye poor and $\frac{1}{2}$ to ye Clark of ye markett."

At a Council held 7th of August, 1700, die Mercurii, "Complaint having been made to this Board by some of ye members of Council, that ye Late fireing of guns from on board some vessels lying before Philadelphia hath not onlie frightened some women and children, but hath

also occasioned some of the Senecar Indians yt come hither to treat wt this governmt to depart, as believing ye firing of sd guns to have been signs of Hostilitie intended agt. ym. It was yrfore ordered yt no vessells Lying before ye town of Philadelphia shall fire anie gunns but att coming in and going out, as a sign of ye arrival and departure, and yt James Logan give notice to Mrs. of Vessells of this order at their entrie of their vessells in his office. The Govr. also, in open Councill, Informed ye 3 Senecar Indians yt stayed behind ye rest, that itt was the Cus-tom of ye English to fire gunns as a sign of joy and kind entertainment of yr friends coming on board; and was in no manner of ways intended to frighten or disoblige yem; as also informed ym yt they wer and should be verie wellcome to this government and in token of amitie and friendship wt ym, ye Gov. gave ym a Belt of Wampum, by ym to be shown to the other Senecar Indians yt went away upon fireing sd gunns Which they kindlie accepted of. The Gov. also desired ye members of Councill to go on board Capt. Sims' vessell wt ye sd 3 Indians and yr Interpreter, yt they might see ye manner of ye English on board yr vessells, wch was accordinglie done, to yr great Satisfaction."

At a Council held die Martis, 14th May, 1700, Coll. Robert Quarrie, Judge of the Court of Admiralty for Pennsylvania, accompanied by John Moore, advocate of said Court, preferred charges against David Lloyd, one of the members of Council elected to represent Chester County, "on account of Irreverent speeches and postures of and agt ye broad seal of England and ye Kings picture and a tin box appended to ye Lords of ye Admiraltie of England, yr Commission to Robert Webb, yn marshal of said Court, etc." In the specification furnished later on, they allege that "the sd David Lloyd, in a most insolent and disloyal manner, taking the sd Commission in his hand and exposing yt to ye people, did utter and publish these scurrilous and reflecting words following, viz; what is this? do you think to scare us with a great box (meaning ye Seal in a tin box) and a little Babie (meaning ye picture or effigies aforesaid) 'tis true' said hee, 'fine pictures please children; but wee are not to be frightened at such a rate,' and many more gross and reflecting expressions on his Ma'tie to ye like effect."

While the charge appears to have been a frivolous one, the Council evidently did not think so, as they decided to suspend Mr. Lloyd. If all the authors of adverse criticism of the "Powers that be" were dealt with

as summarily, in our day, it might perhaps be productive of more respect for the Office, if not for the man, but it would raise a fearful howl for interfering with "the Constitutional right of free speech."

The inhabitants of Germantown, who by the way, had received little or no mention in the proceedings of Council, up to this time, were chafing under Tax levies made by the authorities of Philadelphia. However, at a meeting of Council held on the 5th of 1st. month 1701, "A Petition subscribed by Mr. Danl. Pastorius, by order and in behalf of the German Corporation, was read: Setting forth that by the Proprietaries advice and Directions, they had seated themselves so close together that they scarce have room to live, but Especially that the Proprietary by his Charter of the year 1689, had granted several Considerable Privileges to the Germans of said Town, by making them a Corporation, by virtue of which they looked upon themselves as exempted from the Jurisdiction of ye County Court of Philadelphia, and from all Taxes and Levies of the Same, having a Court of Record and Magistrates within themselves, and Defraying all the Public Charges of their said Town and Corporation, without any Assistance from the rest of the County. At which some persons being dissatisfied, they request that the Govr. by way of Explanation, would declare that they are exempted from all the said Charges and County Levies."

After some discussion "it was ordered that ye full Consideration of the whole affair should be deferred until another Council day."

There is no mention made however, in subsequent minutes, of any further action having been taken on the Petition.

About this time several reports were received from Lechay, alleging that the French traders were trying to debauch the Indians from their fidelity to the crown of England, and array the Catholics against the Protestants, all of which proved to be groundless.

"At a Council held att Philadelphia ye 23 of ye 2nd Mo. 1701, Present: The Proprietary and Governour, with some members of Council and divers others', with the Susquehanna Indians." (Here the unpronounceable names of the Indians are given,) "being the chiefs of the Susquehanna Minguays or Conestogas, Shawanese, Ganawese inhabiting the head of the Potomeek, also the brother to the Emperor or Great King of the Onondagoes of the Five Nations." The Indians were accompanied by "several other of their great men, and Indian

Harry for their interpreter, with some of their young people, women and children, to the number of about forty in the whole. After a Treaty and several Speeches, the following Articles were solemnly agreed on."

Here follows an agreement, in which they mutually agree, among other things, that "there shall be forever hereafter a firm and lasting peace continued between Wm. Penn, his heirs and Successors, and all the English and other Christian Inhabitants of the said Province and the said Kings and chiefs and their successors, and all the several people of the nation of Indians aforesaid, and that they shall forever hereafter be as one Head and one Heart, and live in true Friendship and Amity as one People."

Certain regulations governing trading with the Indians and the enforcement of the laws, were also mutually agreed upon. The chief of the Conestoga Indians living upon the Susquehanna, further agreed to ratify the sale of lands lying near and about said river that had been conveyed to Wm. Penn, by deed bearing date the 13th day of September, 1700.

In confirmation of the agreement the parties thereto, "made mutual presents to each other; The Indians in five parcels of Skins, and the said Wm. Penn in several English Goods and Merchandizes, as a binding Pledge of the promises, never to be broken or violated."

At the meeting of the Council on the 1st of the 6th month, 1701, "The Board took into Consideration the State of this Province and Territories, in regard to its self subsistency, and the Inconveniencys likely to arise by the great export of the Coin thereof, and finding that ye Province of East Jersey have been a means to exhaust this Government of the Coin, to pay for the Cattle imported for the Supply of Philadelphia, for prevention of which, it would be necessary that there should be effectual means taken to encrease the Growth of all kind of Cattle in this Government." "1. Resolved therefore, That it is to be proposed to the Assembly, That every person throughout this Province and Territories who has 40 Acres of clear land, shall keep at least ten Sheep. 2. That no person shall kill, or sell to be kill'd, above one half of their growing neat cattle. 3. That there shall be no neat Cattle kill'd or sold to any of the Inhabitants of Philadelphia, T: from the tenth day of the fourth month, to the tenth day of the seventh month, on any pretense whatsoever.

At this time a Letter was received by command of the King of England, requesting a Contribution of 350 £ Sterling towards erecting forts on the frontiers of New York. The appropriation of this sum was not agreed to, on account of the weak and unprotected condition of the frontiers of the Province, which was daily threatened with war, while the Colonists were unable to procure arms and ammunition for their own defence.

For some time after this, the Council were much occupied with an address made to the Joint Assembly, requesting that certain additional privileges be granted the Inhabitants of the Province. And as William Penn had previously advised them of his intention of returning to England, to refute certain false and unreasonable charges made there to undermine the Colonial Government, the Council on account of the differences had with former Deputy Governors, and of their own limited power, determined to avoid a renewal of the trouble. They therefore petitioned Wm. Penn to grant them a new charter, which after some correspondence and discussion, was granted and signed on the 28th of October, 1701.

The Assembly then dissolved, and Penn sailed for England, arriving at Portsmouth about the middle of December, having first appointed Andrew Hamilton, Lieutenant Governor, and a new Council of State, for the government of the Province of Pennsylvania and Counties annexed. He also granted a Charter for Philadelphia, which then for the first time, assumed the dignity of a City, with Edward Shippen as the first mayor.

The new Council was re-convened November 14, 1701, Lieut. Gov. Andrew Hamilton presiding. At the meeting held July 15, 1702, "The Governor informed the Board that certain advice of the King's death with orders thereupon to proclaim Princess Anne of Denmark, Queen of England, &c., being arrived at all the neighboring Gov'ts, also a rumor of War being proclaimed in England against France and Spain." He also recommended the formation of a Militia for defense of the Colony.

At this time the Representatives of the lower counties who were not satisfied with the new Charter, began agitating an opposition which resulted in their separation from the Province in 1703.

At the meeting held 4th 3rd mo. 1703, Edward Shippen, President,

informed the Board that Lieut. Gov. Hamilton had died April 20th and that it was therefore incumbent on the Council to take care 'of the Peace and well being of the Government, whereupon a Proclamation was issued in which the Council assumed the reins of Government until a successor was appointed.

In the numerous accounts of punishment meted out to delinquents, imprisonment and whipping were most customary, although one account of punishment inflicted on a sailor on an in-coming vessel, which might be called the refinement of cruelty, states, that lighted matches were burned between the fingers of the man, who "suffered bravely, without divulging anything."

At the meeting of Council 12-8, 1703, Anthony Morris, mayor-elect of the city, "presenting himself with ye Alderman and Common Council, made a solemn promise of fidelity to ye Queen, took ye Declaration of his abhorrence of Popery, and ye Test for his qualifications, &c."

John Evans arrived from England on 2nd 12th mo. 1703 with a commission from Wm. Penn, appointing him Lieut. Governor. On the next day his commission was published at the market place and he was publicly proclaimed Lieut. Governor, after which he took the oath of allegiance to the Queen of England and also abjured the Pope's Supremacy.

At the meeting held 7th 2nd mo. 1704, the collectors of taxes for Philadelphia appeared and reported having collected nearly 416 £ about two-thirds of which was paid over to the Proprietor's Receiver.

On the 18th 3rd mo. 1704, Peter Bezalion, a French Trader being summoned to appear before Council, stated that he had heard that those Indians of the "Five nations who intended shortly down this way, had a design of Carrying off the Shawanah Indians, both those settled near the Conestogoe and those near Lechay, they being colonies of a nation that were their enemies; wch being fully considered, it was Resolved yt it would be necessary to send an Embassy as well in behalf of our frds and allies, as ye Shawannahs are, as of ourselves, and yt all ye belts of Wampum be procured and sent up, yt were collected among ye Indians three years agoe for that purpose." The Embassy was sent the following October to confer with the Indians at Conestogo.

At the meeting held 11th 3rd mo. 1705, "Manangy, the Indian Chief on Skuylkill, Came to wait on the Govr. in behalf of the Ganawense or Piscataway Indians, settled in this Province near the head of Polonock, being now reduced by sickness to a small number, and Desirous to quitt their present habitations (where they settled about 5 years ago) with the proprietor's consent, the Conestogo Indians then becoming Guarantees of a Treaty of friendship made between them, and showing a belt of Wampum, they had sent to the Skuylkill Indians to engage their friendship and consent, that they might settle amongst them near Turpyhocken, Request of the Governor that they might be permitted to settle in said place, which if he pleased to agree to, they will come and wait on him themselves with a suitable present. The Gouvernor thereupon gave a kind invitation to settle as they saw fit. (The land occupied by these Indians was purchased from them by Thos. Penn, a son of Wm. Penn, in 1732, the Indians having been crowded out by the Palatines without compensation for their lands.)

At the meeting held 21st December, 1705, a Proclamation for "a General Thanksgiving to be observed on ye 10th day of January next ensuing, throughought this Government, was read and passed."

This is the first record of a Thanksgiving Proclamation made in the Colony of Pennsylvania. The first in the Plymouth Colony having been made in 1621.

On the 6th 4th mo. 1706, James Logan a member of Council, and secretary to Gov. Evans, gave a long detailed account of a visit made by himself and ten others in October 1705, to the Indians living on the Susquehanna, in pursuance of the resolution passed the previous spring.

Gov. Evans, who is said to have been a rash, intemperate young man, without diplomacy, had at this time antagonized the General Assembly and many citizens, by his impolitic actions and treating the pacific principles of the Quakers with contempt. His conduct brought about feuds and ill will toward the Governor that lasted during the whole of his administration and was the cause of much annoyance to his successor.

On the 27th day of June 1707, Gov. Evans with four friends and as many servants started from New Castle on a journey to the Indians. They visited a number of villages, and had friendly intercourse and the

usual exchange of wampum and skins with the Indians.

At the village of Peixtan, on the Susquehanna, the account states, that they seized a French Indian trader named Nicole Godin against whom many complaints had been made.

His capture was attended with many difficulties, and for a time some of the Indians who were armed were disposed to resent it. The account further states that after the capture they "stayed about half an hour, and then parted for Turpeyhocken, having mounted Nicoli upon a horse, and tied his legs under the Belly:—we got within a mile of Turpehockin about two of ye clock on Friday morning, and about 7 the Govr. went to the town, from thence we went to Manatawny that night, and the next day to Philadelphia." This conduct of the Governor, together with other things that happened subsequently, helped to widen the breach between the General Assembly and the Governor, whose conduct in a remonstrance sent to Wm. Penn, was denounced as "abominable and unwarrantable."

On the 25th of July 1707, a petition from Wm. Righton and Robert Grace directed to the Governor, was presented by him to the Council. The petitioners stated that they were the owners of two negro slaves named Tony and Quashy who had recently been condemned to death for burglary proved against them, but as the pecuniary loss for the value of the slaves would fall on the petitioners, as no provision was made for re-imbursing them from the Public Fund, they prayed that in mercy to the said owners, the lives of the slaves might be spared, and that they, the petitioners, may have the liberty to inflict on them "such corporal punishment as may be requisite, for a terror to others of their color." The Council after discussing the Petition, "Resolved, that the owners should have Liberty to punish their slaves, notwithstanding, the sentence of death passed upon them"—that in place of the sentence imposed and ordered, "That the punishment shall be as follows: They shall be led from the Market place, up ye second street and down thro' the front street to ye Bridge, with their arms extended and tied to a pole across their necks, a cart going before them, and that they shall be severely whipt all the way as they pass, upon the bare back and shoulders; this punishment shall be repeated for 3 Market days successively; in the mean time they shall lie in irons, in the prison, at the owners charge."

Gov. Evans as before stated, having made himself very unpopular with the colonists, was on the first day of February 1709, superseded by Capt. Charles Gookin, who had been appointed Lieut. Gov. by Wm. Penn. Gov. Gookin after issuing a Proclamation announcing his appointment, the records state, took the oath of allegiance to the Queen, with the usual other oaths. Gov. Evans, having been deposed, received the compliments of the members of the Assembly in an address, presented to his successor, naming a number of grievances against him and asking for redress and stating that the late Lieut. Gov. "was too much influenced by Evil Councils, to whom the Miseries and Confusion of the state, and Divisions of this Government are principally owing." This aroused the ire of the Council, who presented a counter address refuting the charges.

This address was in turn submitted to the Assembly by the Lieut. Governor. The Assembly then denied that the Council was meant in the objectionable terms used, but that the charge was intended against James Logan, who was secretary of the Council as well as the financial agent of Wm. Penn, and a sort of "Power behind the Throne."

This same James Logan had about two years previously offended the Assembly, who preferred charges against him with a view of having him impeached and removed from office. The Governor, however, declined to assume the authority to order a trial and the matter was dropped.

On the 28th of May 1709, the Governor having returned from a visit to New York, informed the Board that an expedition against the French in Canada was being fitted out. That Queen Anne had issued a letter ordering the expedition, and calling on the colonies for men and money. The Expedition was to embrace 1500 men and the quota of Pennsylvania was 150. The Governor of New York also was authorized "to engage the Five Nations and River Indians to joyn with all their fighting men and promise them a good reward and all fitting encouragement to all gentlemen and others who shall offer themselves to go as Volunteers in this Service."

The Governor in a speech before the joint Assembly stated that "the Quota for this Province is 150 men besides officers who must be victualled and paid, as others are; the charge will amount to about £ 4000.

The Quakers again put in their protest against this demand for

men and money, in an address of the members of the Assembly presented to the Governor on the 8th day of June 1709, claiming that the raising of money to hire men to fight or kill one another, is a matter of Conscience to them and against their religious principles. The Governor in turn urged their compliance with the demands of the Queen, but the Assembly declined to agree to the proposals either directly or indirectly. They however, agreed to raise £500 as a present to the Queen, and then adjourned and went home "without waiting the Governor's consent." They were subsequently ordered to re-convene on July 26th.

On the 5th of July 1709, "the Chiefs of several nations of Indians living on Susquehannagh" including Mingoes, and Delaware Indians settled at Peshtang above Conestogoe and Ganawese with several Interpreters, met the Governor in Council. He informed them of the great Expedition against Canada, and proposed that they join it. The Indians declined going as "they would not be able to return before cold weather set in and therefore must defer it another year." Passakassy (one of the chiefs) added, that they had heard of the French being on our coasts, and that were in danger of being invaded by them; that for this reason they were not willing to take a journey so far from home, lest their wives and children, and we of this place should want their assistance in their absence, and therefore they thought fit to stay." Before departing for their homes the Indians were given "1 cwt. of powder in 4 small casks, 2 cwt. of lead, 4 Stroudwater matchcoats, 1 dozen good linen shirts, 1½ dozen of stockings, 100 flints and a large quantity of biscuit and loaves."

The account further states, "These they were told were for their journey and the Powder and Lead to furnish them with provisions and skins, they were promised such Liquors and other necessaries as they should want, and were desired to receive the whole as a token of Love."

The Assembly having re-convened agreeably to the order of the Governor, on the 29th day of July 1709, sent an address to him in which, amongst other things, they agreed in addition to the £500 previously voted as a present to the Queen, to appropriate £300 for the service of the public, and £200 for the use of the Lieut. Governor, but studiously avoided any reference to filling the quota of men required for the invasion of Canada. At the meeting of Council held 29th September 1709, a Bill was passed naturalizing a number of Germans and

Swedes, the first on the list being Francis Daniel Pastorius. On the 14th day of October 1709, an order under the hand and seal of Wm. Penn, Proprietor, Gov. &c., was received and read before Council. It related to the custody of a certain Wm. Howston, as surety for Thos. French, who having taken out a marriage license, had given bond to the former Lieut. Governor under penalty of £200 in which said Thos. French, agreed to be married "according to the method used in the Church of England." Notwithstanding this obligation, said French was married by a Presbyterian clergyman, after the methods used in their congregations. Lieut. Gov. Evans thereupon brought suit on said bond and obtaining judgment, had execution awarded against the body of said Wm. Howston, who was arrested and placed in custody, for non-payment of said penalty. Wm. Penn directed the judgment against Howston to be cancelled and made void, and ordered his immediate release from prison, stating that the action of the former Lieut. Govr. "seems to be inconsistent with the fundamental constitution of my province and Liberty of Conscience."

The Assembly, which evidently considered James Logan, secretary of the Govr., their "bete noir," on the 23rd of October passed a Resolution directing Peter Evans, high sheriff, of the County of Philadelphia, to arrest and imprison him. This being reported to the Lieut. Governor and to the Council, the latter by a resolution, directed the sheriff in no wise to molest or interfere with said James Logan.

Rumors of Indian uprisings becoming very frequent, the Governor paid a visit to Conestoga on the 30th of May, 1710, and reported to the Council that he had found the Indians to be peaceable and well inclined to the English, which was further confirmed by the report submitted by John French and Henry Worley, who had been sent with a special message to the Indians.

The breach between the Assembly and the Governor and the Council continued to increase, and another remonstrance by the Assembly was sent to the Governor, but the result is not recorded, further than, that in a foot note is stated the following: "N. B. There having been another Election of Representatives on the first of this inst. October, there was a total change made of the members throughout ye three Counties, all the former being turned out, and not one returned who had been in either of the two last Assemblies."

The new Assembly, which had duly organized, waited on the Governor on October 16th, 1710. The Governor made a speech, stating among other things, that he was unable to agree with the last Assembly, and that he hoped the new Assembly had different views from them in the public affairs of the Province, etc. To which speech the Assembly in an address made reply, thanking the Governor for the speech, and promising to work harmoniously with him in the future;—thus ended the warfare.

The furnishing of money for the prosecution of the war against the French in Canada, was, after some discussion, agreed to. The Assembly voting £2000 for the Queen's use, to be raised by a tax of 5½d per pound, and 20 s. per head, which was approved by the Governor.

The Governor and Council had conferences with the Indians at Philadelphia, Conestoga and at White Marsh, at different times, at which the usual pow-wow and exchange of belts of wampum, skins and other presents took place.

At a meeting of Council held 23rd July, 1712, a number of Indians from Conestoga appeared. The Chief who was the first spokesman, in rather poetic language, referred to the first treaty with William Penn, in which it was agreed "that they should always live as friends and brothers and be as one body, one heart, one mind, and as one eye and ear; that what the one saw, the other should see, and what the one heard, the other should hear, and that there should be nothing but love and friendship between them and us forever."

At the meeting of Council held on the 27th of March, 1713, a number of Bills were passed, among which was one "for Establishing Orphan's Courts."—(There having been but one general Court, for the transaction of business, up to this time.)

On the 14th of December 1714, there was received "A Letter signed by the Lords of the Privy Council, dated at Whitehall 10th of August 1714, notifying ye Death of Her late Majesty the Queen, and directing ye Governor to proclaim his present Maty., K. George."

At a Council held ye 14th of March 1715, a number of Bills were received from the House, for concurrence, some of which were amended and returned, including a "Bill for corroborating the Circular Line of Chester and New Castle," with the following proposed amendment,

“Tis desired that the Patent for the Province, which is expressly bounded on the Circular Line, 12 miles distance from New Castle, on the Northern Western bounds thereof, should be recited.” This was finally passed as amended and was approved by the Governor and Council, on the 28th of May 1715, at which time also, eighteen other Bills became Laws; Among which were “A Bill for Establishing ye General Qr. Sessions of ye Peace.” “A Bill impowering Religious Societies to buy, hold and Enjoy Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments.” “A Bill directing an affirmation to those who for conscience sake can't take an Oath.” “A Bill for Acknowledging and Recording of Deeds.” “A Bill for erecting a Supream Court in Law and Equity.” “A Bill for Establishing Courts of Common Pleas.” “A Bill for raising a supply of 2d, Per pound and 4sh. per head on the Inhabitants and freemen of the Province of Pennsylvania.” And “A Bill for Laying a Duty on negroes imported into this Province.”

There is but one reference made in the Minutes, to the “Calumet or Pipe of Peace,” which usually occupies a prominent place in pictorial representations of Peace Meetings, between the Whites and Indians, and that was, at the meeting of Council held 14th of June 1715, of which the following is the account. “The Chiefs of Delaware and Schuylkill Indians coming down to visit the Governor, they mett in ye Court house at Philadelphia, Sassoanon being their head, and Opessah, ye late Shawonois king wth. his companion attending him, and then opening ye Calamet with great Ceremony of their Rattles and songs, it was offered by Sassoanon the king to the Governor, Council, and all other of ye English there mett, and afterwards was also offered by him to all his Indians, and then with ye same ceremony was put up again.” “Then Sassoanon rose and spoke to the Governor, and said, that the Calamett, the bond of peace, which they had carried to all the nations round, they had now brought hither; that it was a sure bond and seal of peace amongst them, and between them and us, and Desired by holding up their hands, that the God of Heaven might Witness to it, and that there might be a firm peace between them and us forever.” To which the Goyernor made a reply. Sassoanon then presented several belts of Wampum and a number of bundles of skins, in a lengthy speech. After the pow-wow was over, the Mayor and Secretary took an inventory of the presents and valued them £20 11s. On the next day the Governor

gave them presents in return, consisting of matchcoats, blankets, shirts, powder, lead, tobacco and pipes to the value of more than £34.

These visits of the Indians, had at this time become very frequent, and as they received gifts often twice the value of those they gave, it was quite a source of profit to them, besides it gave them an opportunity of getting all the rum they wanted.

This same party, after remaining in Philadelphia more than a week, again appeared before the Governor and Council, on the 22nd of June, when the Governor spoke to them on the evil of intemperance, and said he was glad to see them sober again at their departure.

Governor Gookin arrayed himself against the Quakers by insisting that under Statutes 7 and 8 of William III, known as the Affirmation Act, which prohibited Quakers from serving on juries, qualifying as witnesses or holding any office of profit in the government, claiming that this being a Law of England and extending to the Provinces, repealed or superseded any conflicting Provincial Law. These views also interfered with the operations of the newly formed Courts, as the Judges, under the circumstances, declined to sit. This position was the more unfortunate, as the majority of Council as well as of the Judges of the Courts, were Quakers.

The Governor did not meet with the Council, during the remaining time of his administration, and the minutes of 10th December 1716, state that "being by his own Improvident conduct much pinched in his circumstances, he Endeavored to be reconciled with the Assembly, between whom and himself these following transactions passed." Here follows the account of a message sent by the Assembly to the Governor, and his reply thereto. Upon receipt of the reply of the Governor, the Assembly first voted him £100, but afterward increased the amount to £200.

Governor Gookin was finally superseded by Governor William Keith on the 31st of May 1717.

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